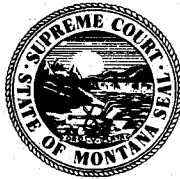


The Supreme Court of Montana
Office of Court Administrator

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
DATE FILED **5**
05 JAN 07
FILE NO. **SB 50**

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 50

Submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee
By Lois Menzies, Court Administrator
Montana Supreme Court
January 5, 2007

The Office of Court Administrator (OCA) supports SB 50. The bill as drafted makes it illegal for a juvenile probation officer to have sexual contact with a juvenile who is on probation. In Montana, the juvenile probation function is an integral component of our Youth Courts, which are part of the state's District Courts. In fiscal year 2006, nearly 7,000 youth were referred to Youth Court. The OCA provides technical and policy assistance to the Youth Courts.

The OCA supports the amendments proposed by the sponsor. These amendments will broaden the scope of this bill to cover any employee, contractor, or volunteer of the Youth Court who has supervisory or disciplinary authority over a juvenile. These amendments would cover court employees such as community supervision officers and intensive supervision officers as well as individuals under contract to provide services to youth within the juvenile justice system.

This legislation offers additional protection to youth who enter the juvenile justice system in Montana. The OCA urges your support for the bill and the proposed amendments.